



22 June 2021

STATEMENT ON CRITICISM OF COURTS IN SAMOA

LAWASIA, the law association for Asia and the Pacific, expresses its concerns about recent criticism of the courts in Samoa, in what appears to be an attempt to undermine public confidence in the judiciary.

LAWASIA makes no comment about the merits of the legal challenge to the outcome of the Samoan election on 9 April 2021. LAWASIA also believes that no court is immune from informed and constructive criticism. It believes it is incumbent, however, on leading political parties as well as the legal profession and the media to avoid partisan and unfounded attacks on the integrity of the judiciary which can only serve to erode the rule of law.

LAWASIA supports and endorses public statements issued to date in relation to Samoa by the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and the South Pacific Lawyers Association.

We call on persons holding public positions in Samoa to maintain respect for the rule of law, and the independence of the courts and the judiciary.

Chunghwan Choi
President, LAWASIA